

TRANSPARENCY MINI-TRIAL ACTIVITY ROLES TO BE PLAYED

JUDGE: THE JUDGE MUST SEE THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE A FAIR CHANCE TO PRESENT THEIR CASES. THE JUDGE SHOULD NOT INTERRUPT OR DOMINATE THE PROCEEDINGS. AFTER BOTH SIDES HAVE PRESENTED THEIR CASE, THE JUDGE MAKES A DECISION BASED ON THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED.

DEFENDANT: THIS PERSON IS BEING SUED BY THE PLAINTIFF. S/HE HAS RECEIVED A SUMMONS FROM THE COURT AND IS PROBABLY APPEARING AGAINST HIS/HER WILL. S/HE LISTENS TO THE ACCUSATION AND THEN EITHER TRIES TO PROVE IT UNTRUE OR GIVES REASONS TO JUSTIFY HIS/HER ACTIONS.

PLAINTIFF: THIS PERSON HAS ACCUSED THE DEFENDANT OF DOING OR NOT DOING SOMETHING WHICH S/HE THINKS IS UNFAIR. S/HE IS THE ONE WHO HAS ASKED THE COURT TO HEAR THE CASE. IN SMALL CLAIMS COURT THE PLAINTIFF IS ASKING THE JUDGE TO MAKE THE DEFENDANT PAY HIM/HER AN AMOUNT OF MONEY (MAXIMUM OF \$5,000). THE PLAINTIFF SPEAKS TO THE JUDGE FIRST, ONCE THE TRIAL BEGINS.